

Subject: Natural Resources Update Report, July 6

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To: Regional Chiefs of Natural Resource Management  
Regional Chief Scientists  
WASO Natural Resources Divisions

From: Acting Associate Director, Natural Resources

Subject: Natural Resources Update Report

July 6, 1993

Last week's update omitted Dave Haskell's new number here in Washington--we've been playing musical chairs and he's now sitting in my old office, formerly Abby Miller's old office (Rm 3223) and can be reached at my old number (202) 208-5193.

On July 1, a committee chaired by Boyd Evison was convened at the Director's request to advise him on an NPS response in view of NBS, including the future of natural resource management. The group was composed of superintendents Tom Ritter, Andy Ringgold, Rob Arnberger, and Kate Cannon; university personnel Paul Risser, Norm Christenesen, Jane Lubchenco, and Don Field; and Dave Policansky of the National Research Council. Dave Haskell and I, Charles van Riper III of the Northern Arizona CPSU, and NCR chief scientist Bill Anderson acted as staff to the group.

Many of the issues discussed have been previously addressed by regional and WASO program managers at Acadia and by others through the 5-Year Strategic Plan work groups and other forums--issues such as the need for a priority-setting process in NBS to meet park needs, the need to professionalize resource management positions, etc... The group last week did not develop any brand new analyses or options, but do represent a group that the Director feels comfortable with to advise him on these issues.

Molly Ross, the Air Quality Division's Deputy Chief and its ranking representative stationed in Washington will be on detail to the Assistant Secretary's Office for the next 120 days. John Christiano came in to Washington last week to help in her absence. Miguel Flores will be here July 12-23, with a break for the R-MAP meeting in Boston July 20-22. Mark Scruggs will follow July 26 through August 6.

In addition, I have asked a series of people to come in and pick up some of the duties I left behind to act for Gene. Bill Anderson was here last week and will continue for two more weeks, working on a cost-benefit analysis of the CPSUs required as a result of the IG audit a couple of years back. Mary Foley will be here July 19 through 23, Dan Huff August 2 through 13, Sam Kunkle August 16 through 20, and Bruce Kilgore August 23 through September 3. Ron Hiebert will be in in September and Mary Foley will be back then as well.

July 7 and 8, a panel composed of WASO, regional, and park personnel, is meeting to prioritize the inventory priorities for the Inventory and Monitoring Program. It will provide NPS and NBS with a schedule for all basic inventories included in NPS-75. This will allow us to better articulate what funding increases will be used for, provide a detailed prescription for NBS's inventory responsibilities, and advise parks as to when they can expect Servicewide funding to meet their I&M needs.

Leslie Manfull will be at USGS in Reston this week working with the information provided by parks, regions, and Servicewide programs regarding geographical data.

The Water Resources Division has been actively involved in Departmental response to the developing Clean Water Act amendments. Dan McGlothlin was here last week assisting. The Water Resources Division also advises that they have completed work on the revised floodplain guideline and are forwarding a Special Directive regarding its implementation. A notice of the new guideline will appear in the Federal Register.

The NNL regulations may soon be off hold. The Administration's moratorium on regulations has been lifted. The National Park Service's plans to implement new regulations to address issues surrounding the NNL program have long languished due to general bans on new regulations.